

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/050384

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04S1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04S H04R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/49066 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 5 July 2001 (2001-07-05) page 7, line 1 – line 15 page 10, line 22 – line 24 page 11, line 19 – page 12, line 27 figures 2,6 -----	1-5,9,12
A	GB 1 561 458 A (VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN) 20 February 1980 (1980-02-20) page 1, line 10 – line 18; figure 1 -----	1,9,12
A	EP 0 549 836 A (SONICS ASSOCIATES INC) 7 July 1993 (1993-07-07) column 5, line 48 – column 6, line 6; figure 1 -----	1,9,12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- °A° document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- °E° earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- °L° document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- °O° document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- °P° document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- °T° later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- °X° document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- °Y° document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- °&° document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

27 July 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

04/08/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: **6-8, 10, 11**
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 6-8,10,11

All of these claims are directed to a computer program comprising program code means for use in a system or method in accordance with the invention. Since the meaning of the expression "the invention" is substantially undefined, it is not clear in what context the program is to be used. Moreover, the fact that the claimed program is designed for use with an undefined invention does not impose any clear limitation on the program itself. In the absence of any other features defining the program, the subject-matter for which protection is sought in claims 6-8, 10 and 11, is completely obscure. Therefore no meaningful search is possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0149066	A	05-07-2001	WO EP JP US	0149066 A2 1201101 A2 2003518890 T 2003190047 A1		05-07-2001 02-05-2002 10-06-2003 09-10-2003
GB 1561458	A	20-02-1980	JP US	52080001 A 4143244 A		05-07-1977 06-03-1979
EP 0549836	A	07-07-1993	EP DE DE ES	0549836 A1 69120823 D1 69120823 T2 2093083 T3		07-07-1993 14-08-1996 13-03-1997 16-12-1996